

CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF GEORGE EDWIN TIBBITS

George Edwin Tibbits, known as Edwin, was born June 20, 1843, the son of George W. Tibbits and Eleanor Bullard Tibbits of New Hartford and Utica, NY. Little is known about his childhood except that as a boy he had worked on an Erie Canal boat and helped on the family farm.

Edwin enlisted in the 53rd Regiment New York Infantry Volunteers in October 1861 when he was 18 years old. The regiment was called the D'Epineuil Zoaves, after Colonel Lionel J. D'Epineuil, the commanding officer authorized by the US Army to form the unit. Its troops wore colorful, zoave-style uniforms similar to those adopted by French soldiers serving in North Africa. Although the regiment was mustered in for a term of three years, problems with discipline and desertion were reported and the unit was disbanded in Washington, D.C. on March 21, 1862 after only six months of service.

During his time in the regiment, Edwin Tibbits sent letters home to his mother Eleanor and his younger sister, Anna; his father George had died of consumption in 1860. Twelve of the letters he wrote during his time of service were copied by his sister onto lined paper pages in a primitive notebook. Her handwriting is precise but faint, and it is not known if errors in spelling and lapses in punctuation, which have been largely corrected in these transcriptions, are due to her copying or were found in Edwin's writing. The original letters were not saved.

In his letters home, Edwin revealed his concern for his mother and sister along with a deep sense of responsibility for their well-being. Sending money to them was a priority, and in his letters he checked whether the family had enough

flour, asked if his mother had been able to buy a pig, and shared his hopes that they might purchase apple trees to improve the farm. He expressed worry about his mother's health and urged her to stay inside when the weather grew cold.

The early letters were written from the regiment's training camp on Staten Island, while later ones were sent from camps near Annapolis, MD and outside Fort Monroe in Hampton Roads, VA. Edwin described ongoing discontent with the regiment's officers and their strict drills, gave the names of deserters from the Utica area, mentioned a near- mutiny among the troops, and told of the regiment's disastrous journey to and from the Battle of Roanoke Island when the fleet was blown far off course and drifted out to sea. Despite the challenges, he continued to write that he was in the "best of spirits" and eager to fight for the "glorious cause."

By mid-February 1862, when the regiment had been ordered to return north, Edwin predicted it would be disbanding. "I knew there would be hardships," he wrote, "but we have had rather more than our share." He did not sound disheartened, however, saying he wanted to return home and enlist in the 14th NY Infantry. Sadly, he died on April 15, 1862, only three weeks after the 53rd regiment was disbanded. He is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery in Utica, NY.

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NOTE: Foreword and transcriptions completed in January 2021 by Carolyn Ives Dingman, great-granddaughter of Edwin Tibbets' sister Anna Tibbets Gage.

Camp Leslie,¹ Staten Island, Oct. 23rd 1861

Dear Mother and Sister,

I received your letter yesterday and you cannot think what pleasure it gave me to hear from home. You need not fear that I will get sick for I am very careful. I go to bed at dark and bundle up in blankets.

You must excuse poor writing and spelling for I am in a tent with a jiggling lot of fellows and am writing on a piece of board and have a very poor pen. We have better fare than we had when I wrote you last and I like [it] very well, and it is very well it is so for there would have been blood spilled, for us fellows that have been volunteered to die for our Country are not agoing to be spit up on and used like dogs.

Tell Uncle Luther² that things look warlike for hundreds of men are employed in erecting fortifications.

I took a trip up to Fort Scott³ to see how things looked there. I could see clear out on to the broad Atlantic. They were mounting guns so big that I could almost crawl into them and when they get it done it will be able to sink anything that may pass up or down the river.

A fellow just came into the tent and says that we are to start for the seat of war and I hope it is so for the nights are very cold here and I hope we will go to a warmer climate.

I have got my uniform⁴ all but a vest and I think I shall have it today. Two men was killed at Camp Scott by being thrown from their horses.

The Cavalry men say keep out of the Cavalry. A great many are deserting from this camp, there is not anybody satisfied. They say they had the promise of going home and they are agoing.

The officers some of them do not know enough to have guns. If I was a French man I could go home any time but as it is I cannot. A great many officers will fall by their own men. Tell Abe Walker that I will write to him in a day or two. Read and then burn. From your affectionate son and brother.

G. E. Tibbits

¹ Camp Leslie (also spelled Lesley) was an army training camp located in Clifton on the north shore of Staten Island.

² Martin Luther Bullard, born 16 Jan. 1821, was the brother of Edwin's mother, Eleanor Bullard Tibbits; he owned a canal boat on the Erie Canal. In the early 1850s he had travelled to California to pan for gold with Edwin's father, George Tibbits.

³ Actually Camp Scott, another Staten Island army training camp located near the East River north of Camp Leslie.

⁴The uniform of the 53rd Regiment Zoaves included a red fez with a yellow tassel, dark blue jacket with yellow braiding, a blue sash, and yellow and black leather leggings.

Camp Leslie, Staten Island, Oct. 24th, 1861

Dear Mother and Sister,

I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well. It is very cold here now.

We have now just had the battalion. Tell Abe Walker that he would have been willing to have walked 28 miles to have saw it, and when it broke up such hurrahing can only be imagined. And tell him that I have been on guard four times and the grand rounds came around and they tried to get my gun and one of them got my bayonet.

Oct. 25th.

I have not got my uniform yet and if I don't today or Monday I shall enlist in some other regiment, or if I take it into my head to come home I shall join the 14th⁵ for I don't think I have been used right for recruits come into camp one day and get uniformed and furloughs to go home the next.

You need not think that I mean to desert the cause but I will not be misused so now that is enough of that kind of talk. You need not think that I am sick of it for I am not, but I am not agoing to be lied to in this kind of manner. The talk just now is that we are agoing to Fort Schuyler⁶ on East River and then to New Orleans. So good bye.

G. E. Tibbits

⁵ The 14th Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry was made up mostly of volunteers from Oneida County and had several companies of men who had enlisted in Utica.

⁶ Fort Schuyler, located at Throggs Neck in the Bronx, served as a Civil War training center and later as both a military hospital and a prison for captured Confederate soldiers.

Camp Leslie, Staten Island, Nov 13, 1861

Dear Mother and Sister,

I received your letter two or three days ago but could not answer it because I did not have the paper.

If that recruiting office is open in Utica see him about fetching my satchel whenever you have a chance.

I want to know whether you have got a pig or not, and is Uncle Luther adoining well with his boat or not.

I cannot get my likeness taken here for we are confined in camp as close as though we were in prison, but when we get to Annapolis, Md. then I will have more of a chance.

We are not mustered into the service of the U.S. as I wrote to you. We are agoing to start on Saturday for Annapolis, Maryland, and we are agoing to drill all winter, so you need not fear of my getting killed, but one of our boys got drown [sic] in a well last night.⁷

You wrote to me that Charles Walker was sick with a fever and I should like to hear how he is, and tell Abe that I will write to him as soon as I can.

There is talk here now that we will be paid off Saturday, and if it is so you will soon have some money, and when I get to Annapolis I will draw a relief paper so you can draw \$2 a week and so I think that I can help you a great deal more by staying here than I could by coming home. So good bye for the present.

Your affectionate son and brother,
George E. Tibbits

⁷ The Adjutant-General's unit roster reports that John Reed, a 29 year old private from New York City, drowned in a well at Camp Leslie on Nov. 3, 1861.

Camp Richmond Md.⁸ Dec. 10th, 1861

My Dear Mother and Sister,

I now have the time to write to you to let you know that I am well and in the best of spirits and am perfectly happy in the prospects of meeting the enemies of my country.

We arrived in Maryland about 3 weeks ago and could not write until now because I could not get the wherewith.

I tried to write to you last Saturday but could not because I was in such a rage about old Burgess⁹ putting [me] on guard for being absent at roll call and I will shoot him if ever I get him in the field of battle for he is the meanest man in the regiment.

Tell Uncle Luther that if he could only look at the men in this state under arms he would think Jefferson Davis's halter¹⁰ was about ready for there is over 21,000 men encamped with me in three miles of where we are, and we are all agoing to start South in a fortnight from now.

Tell Abe Walker that I took a tramp of about ten miles from camp and got chased by two secessionists.

Everybody around are rebels and are not afraid to speak their opinion any time. They are furnishing our boys money and citizens dress to all who would run away and some of them got caught at it and are in a camp and will be sent to Fort Lafayette.¹¹

I want you to let me know how you get along and have you got a pig. Please send me Charles Walker's address and also send me a fine comb and any things you wish.

Address

Camp Richmond
Annapolis Md.
D. Epineuil Zouaves
Co. D 53 regt.,
N.Y.I.V.

George E. Tibbits

⁸ Camp Richmond was a Civil War training camp located just south of Annapolis, MD, later known as Camp Parole.

⁹ William Burgess, age 23, was 1st Lieutenant of Company D; he had enrolled Edwin in the regiment in Utica on Oct. 11, 1861.

¹⁰ Halter was another term for a noose.

¹¹ Fort Lafayette, located in Brooklyn where a pillar for the Verrazano Narrows Bridge now stands, was used to hold captured Confederate soldiers as well as alleged Confederate sympathizers.

January 14th, 1862

My Dear Mother and Sister,

I am now on board the *John Trucks* consisting a part of the fleet of Fortress Monroe¹² and am now agoing to sail under sealed orders to some rebel Port thought to be up the York River to York Town, or else to Norfolk.

I did not get paid off until we got on the ship and we laid aground 4 days in the Chesapeake Bay, and so I could not get my money home in time to pay Johnson. I am very sorry but could not help it. I am very well and in good spirits and I hope you are the same.

I do not want you to expose your health by going out in stormy weather and I do not want you to fret about me for I shall serve my flag faithfully and come home all right.

I don't think it is right for Mrs. Walker to fret so about Charlie. I shall feel very bad when I come home to hear that my mother and sister used to worry about me when I was engaged in the glorious cause of upholding my Country's flag, and when I come home which I feel perfectly confidently I shall, I shall [be] very proud that I have had a chance to serve my Country, and I don't want to come home until I have the chance to bleed some rebel, not to say that I am not anxious to be at home with you and Anna but I want the U.S. to be at peace. I shall not come home unless I get sick.

Mother as soon as you get this go to the Adams express office in Utica and get your money.

The ship rolls so I cannot write any longer. From your affectionate son and brother.

Direct to Fortress Monroe
Edwin Tibbets

¹² Also known as Fort Monroe, it was located in Hampton Roads, VA overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. The fort remained in Union hands and was staging area for a number of military campaigns during the Civil War.

Fortress Monroe, Feb. 4th, 1862

My Dear Mother and Sister,

I am still on board the *John Trucks*, but we are just weighing anchor and bound for Annapolis. I received your letter yesterday, and I was so overjoyed that I could not sleep any last night.

You said you sent letters with stamps in them but I have never rec'd them. I have not received any letters since I left Staten Island but it is much as you can expect of an officer in the DEEP IN HELL Zouaves. You ought to have seen the piece in the paper about this regiment it read in this manner. The men of the D'Epineuil Zouaves were not paid off until they got on board of the *John Trucks* where they would be tempted to spend it over the gaming table or spend it with the Sutler,¹³ and the Colonel, a French villain, would not let Capt. Cocheu,¹⁴ an honest and honorable man, take the money ashore because he would not stand so good a chance of getting some of it himself, and some of the officers have gambled their money away and have borrowed of the privates and I would not give ten cents on the dollar for all the pay they will receive of them.

We are just starting. The steamer *Erickson* is towing us towards Annapolis. We are leaving the old war dog, Fortress Monroe, and a majestic sight it is. While I am writing I can see the white tents of the rebels on Sewell's Point.¹⁵ I will give you a little detail of our voyage to Cape Hatteras.

We started from Annapolis on the first day of January and the first day we run aground in a bay, and lay there 4 days and night and had to throw our tents overboard to get off, and then we started off and arrived at Fortress Monroe the next day, and had a little grub put aboard and started for Fort Hatteras and was out of sight of land 17 days, and then we run into the Hatteras Inlet and there we weathered a gale. 14 vessels were wrecked or blown to Sea and have not been heard of since.

The boat *Admiral*, the boat that we came from Staten Island to Annapolis on, was wrecked, also a schooner, *Pocohantas*¹⁶ with 100 horses and one Colonel and 14 men went down in the gale.

We laid at Hatteras 4 days and then were ordered back to Fortress Monroe by Gen. Burnside,¹⁷ and Gen. Wool¹⁸ ordered us back to Annapolis. On our return passage from Hatteras we were becalmed in the Gulf stream and we drifted about 900 miles out to sea, and we had been on short allowance about 3 days and it is a good thing that we were helped for if we had not there would not many of us seen land for starvation stared us in the face for we had but enough for one day and we had been out about a week and we expected to have been but one day agoing. And in all this time we were out we never saw a vessel.

G. E. Tibbets

¹³ Sutlers were civilian merchants authorized to operate stores on or near a military post.

¹⁴ Frederick Cocheu, age 20, was a captain in Company H.

¹⁵ Sewell's Point is a peninsula of land in Norfolk, VA at the mouth of the salt water port of Hampton Roads.

¹⁶ Paddle-wheel steamer blown ashore on Roanoke Island Jan. 28, 1862; 90 horses lost, no human lives.

¹⁷ General Benjamin F. Butler was in command of the volunteer forces outside of Fort Monroe.

¹⁸ General John E. Wool was commander of Fort Monroe.

February 5th, 1862

Dear Mother and Sister,

You wanted to know what kind of seeds those were. They were the seed of a pumpkin that was as large as a flour barrel. I do not suppose that they will grow so much in a northern climate, and those stones were some that I picked up on the Plantation of Charles Carroll¹⁹ of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and you wanted to know if I ever felt sleepy on my post, no I never do and you need not worry about my likeness for I think you will see the original before long for I think that the regiment will be disbanded and if it is not I shall stay until next pay day and then I am coming home and stay a few days then then go in the 14th. I don't want you to think that I am agoing to desert my colours but you must recollect that I have not had that furlough that was promised me and I am agoing to take one.

I want you to let me know whether McQuade's recruiting office is open or not. I have been greatly deceived in this regiment and I am not the only one of the Utica boys that is coming home. So I must bid now goodbye.

Edwin Tibbits

P.S. Mother I want to know whether you rec'd your money in time to pay Johnson. I sent you \$27 the 15th of last month and I shall send you 26 next month and I want you to be very careful on your health for I think that I can send you home money so that you will not have to go out in bad weather.

I was very sorry that I could not send my money home before but I sent it the first opportunity I had.

I told you that I had not rec'd any stamps but as I looked into one of your letters as I was writing I found 2 and into another and found 2 more. I shall write regular every week. Our mail has gone on to Hatteras and I suppose it is in Annapolis. When we left Hatteras the soldiers were dying off very fast for the want of shelter. We are going to have the N.Y. uniform and I am agoing to send this one home. Direct to Annapolis, Md. Co D, 53 regt. NYV.

¹⁹ Charles Carroll, 1737-1832. At the time of the Civil War his Annapolis plantation was serving as a Catholic novitiate and was the site of a working farm.

Annapolis Md. Feb 8th, 1862

My Dear Mother and Sister,

I now have the pleasure of addressing you in this letter.

It was rumored that we were to go back to Hatteras but it was false, and we remained in camp at our old Campground and I think the prospect is that the war will end before we have a hand in it but I hope not for I do not want to come home before we have had one honorable skirmish, and if this regiment is kept as a land force I shall stand by it but if it is agoing on another expedition I shall go in another regiment for I never mean to desert my Country's flag when it is in danger.

When we get off from this ship we are agoing to stop 4 or 5 days in an Earth Work from which the rebels fired on Gen'l Butler, and he landed and compelled them to surrender.

The boys that came from Utica have deserted, two of them are named Dygert²⁰ and the other Kling,²¹ also Owens²² just before breaking up camp. There was almost mutiny and the Col.²³ came to his senses a little and so we got better usage. You need not think that I am sorry that I have enlisted for I am not, for I knew there would be hardships, but we have had rather more than our share.

You wrote to me about sending me blankets but I have got a good N.Y. blanket and that is enough, and I tell you with trust that I will get my likeness taken, and I should like yours but I could not keep it.

Anna said that the Yeaton boys said that anybody could not be got out of the army on the writ of Habeus Corpus, but I know better for there was a fell[ow] 20 years of age got out of this regt and his name was George Arnott.²⁴ It may be that they know him, but tell them that I do not want to get out for if I did I would take ___ bail for security. Tell Mr. Abe Walker Esq. that I think a great deal of that letter he wrote but a great deal more of the promise. And tell Byron Baldwin if he cannot shoulder a rifle for his Country that he would make a better looking corpse than a tailor and in time of peace is the time to learn that trade and he had better let his mother make soldiers clothes and he had better hide himself, tell him this for me.

From Edwin Tibbits

²⁰ George W. Dygert, age 20, had enlisted in Utica Oct. 2, 1861 as a private in Co. D and deserted Dec. 30, 1861 at Annapolis.

²¹ DeWitt Kling, age 18, enlisted as a private in Co. D Oct. 2, 1861 in Utica; deserted Dec. 30, 1861 at Annapolis. Later served in 117th NY Infantry Regiment July 1862-June 1865.

²² Richard Owens, age 18, enlisted as a private in Co. D. Oct. 5, 1861; deserted Jan. 7, 1862 at Annapolis.

²³ Colonel Lionel J. d'Epineuil, age 31, was commander of the 53rd Regiment.

²⁴ George Arnott enlisted as a private in Co. D Oct. 2, 1861 and deserted Nov. 15, 1861 when the regiment was training at Camp Leslie on Staten Island.

February 9th, 1862
On Board the *John Trucks*

My Dear Mother and Sister,

I received your kind letter last and stated that you received your money and was very glad to hear that it was in time to pay Johnson for I supposed it was due the 17th day of January, and the 1st of March I shall send \$26 more home and I want you to set out a few more apple trees on the side hill for I want a few set out every year until it is an orchard, and if you can get five or six pear trees it would be a great thing, and if you can get anybody to graft those trees I set out last spring I should like to have it done for then the hill would be the most valuable part of the place which is now nearly worthless.

I rec'd a weekly *Herald*²⁵ and do not know who sent it but when I read it it seemed just as though I was at home.

We are to be landed tomorrow. I suppose up home it is very cold. When I was in North Carolina it was as warm as summer but as we came farther North it began to be colder. I want you to write how you get along, and who takes care of old Marge(?) and does Carlo have a good place to sleep or has he run off and left you. If not take good care of him and not let him fight. Little did I think when he followed me to Utica that it would be so long before I should see him.

Tell Anna that she need not be alarmed about my getting killed for there is not any danger of this regt getting into a battle. You wanted me to write what kind of officers we have. The Col. is a sort of a beast, he says that he is a man amongst men but a _____ amongst _____. And my Capt is a man but I have got a debt to settle with him if ever we get in a battle and he knows it as well as I do myself. And my first Lieutenant is a gambler and is not very apt to pay his debts for he owes for his board to the Central Hotel while recruiting.

Tell Abe Walker that when he answers my letter I hope it will be a good one. So I must close.

From your affectionate son,
George E. Tibbits

²⁵ *Utica Morning Herald and Daily Gazette*, published 1857-1900

Camp Madison²⁶ Friday the 20th 1862

Dear Mother and Sister,

I now take time to write letters to you and received no answer, and have rec'd no paper.

We are encamped in Fort Madison and we have got the Sibley²⁷ tents and there is 18 in a tent, and we live in first rate style, we have beef steak and mutton. Anybody can afford to be a soldier with such living.

We are agoing to be paid off in about 14 days and then I will send you \$26 by Adams Express. I want to know where that other money went to, whether to New Hartford or Utica, so as to know where to send the next.

You said you would send me some things, and I will tell you what I want most. I want two shirts, one pair of drawers, two towels, one handkerchief, one paper of needles, one spool of thread, and a few cookies, and I do not want any more for I have got a good blanket, and if I had what you said you would send me I could not carry them. In my next letter I will send you a relief ticket.

The talk is now that we are agoing to be disbanded. I have got a splendid gun and I am agoing to take it apart and send it home and my belt and bayonet and hook some deserters gun.

There is six boys from Utica. Their names are as follows: Arnott, Kling, Kent,²⁸ Dygert, Clark,²⁹ Owens.

If you send me those things send me a receipt in a letter. If you are short of money do not send them.

Do you have any work? Mother for Gods [sake] do not go out in bad weather, for health is worth more than money.

Write how you all get along. Please excuse poor writing so I must close.

So good bye.
Edwin Tibbits

²⁶ Fort Madison was a coastal fort in Annapolis; it was abandoned and destroyed after the Civil War and the site is now part of the U.S. Naval Academy grounds.

²⁷ Invented by American military officer Henry H. Sibley in 1856, the tent had a conical design about 12 feet high and 18 feet in diameter supported by a central pole

²⁸ George T. Kent, age 21, enlisted Co. D as a private on Oct. 2, 1861 in Utica and deserted Feb. 16, 1862 at Annapolis, MD. Later enlisted in 146th NY Infantry Regiment in August 1862 and deserted in Frederick City, MD June 1863.

²⁹ Albert W. Clark, age 20, enlisted in Co. D as a private on Oct. 4, 1861 in Utica; deserted Feb. 17, 1862 at camp near Annapolis, MD.

Fort Madison Feb [27] Friday Eve 1862

My Dear Mother and Sister,

I received your kind letter and you said the folks bother you about pay. Tell them to keep away and as soon as you get the money that they will get it and if they can get it any sooner tell them that you would like to know it.

I am glad to hear that you have got flour enough to last you all summer. The probability is that in less than three weeks I shall be at home and if it is so I will stay at home a few days and then if you are willing to have me go into the 14th regt and if not I will do our haying. I probably will anyhow for this war is soon a going to terminate, for Gen'l McClellan will soon make a move and sweep rebellion out of existence. One of our Lieutenants was killed at the battle of Roanoke Island and he was one of the nicest fellows I ever saw, his name was Colron.³⁰ He enlisted as a private and was promoted to lieutenancy. Dick Owens is a deserter and there has not been anybody discharged out of this regt. There will soon arrive in Utica 2 more deserters, Clark and Kent.

You said Oliver and Wilson Teed had enlisted, Wilson will do very well but Oliver will have more than one crying spell, for a soldier's life is not one of the easiest. And you said that Corneal Tibbits³¹ enlisted in the 69th & I should [have] thought he would have gone in the 16th or 26th, as for me I will never think much of him now after going in that regt. Our regt now consists of about 400 and when we came here there were 750 men and if we are paid off on land there will be a great many more. I hope you do not think that I mean to desert my colors, no, I never did, but I do not think that it makes much difference what regiment I am in and there is one thing certain that I am not agoing to be put on board of another ship.

I will stick to the regt if it keeps on land and I never will have the name of a deserter. I have never received but 4 papers and do not send any more for they are only kept back.

I wish you would send me a box of anguinam(?) and send me your likenesses and as soon as we get paid I will get mine taken and send it with the balance of my money. I shall send every cent of my money home. We will get paid off in about 4 days and then I want you to look out for No. 1 first. Tell Mary Adams that she has never answered my letter and then tell Abe Walker that if he had killed Carlo that I would have killed him also and I want you to take good care of him, but stop his tricks.

Direct your letters to Annapolis.
From Edwin Tibbets

³⁰ The name Colron does not appear on the Adjutant-General's unit roster for the unit. Joseph A. Vignier de Monteil, was lieutenant colonel of the 53rd Regiment and was killed on Roanoke Island Feb. 8, 1862.

³¹ Perhaps referring to Edwin's cousin Cornelius Tibbits, born 1839, son of George Tibbit's brother William. The name Tibbits does not appear on the unit roster of any of the three regiments listed.

Camp Fort Madison March 6th 1862

Dear Mother and Sister,

I received your letter night before last and was perfectly overjoyed to hear from home, and more to hear that you were all well. I am well and comfortable and have not seen a sick day since I enlisted. The talk is that we are to be disbanded and if so we will be disbanded in a few days if at all³².

We will be paid off in two or three days. I want you to tell me if there is any recruiting going on up there and what regiments, and is the regt that Wilson Teed belongs to at the seat of war.

Tell Abram Walker that I shot a wild duck with an Enfield rifle and that a long ways off, and did not find it so hard as he always said it was and I wish I could draw as good a bead on some rebel as I did on that duck. And tell him that I answered his letter and I want him to write again. Do not send me any things until I know whether we burst or not. Yesterday we could hear the roaring of cannons on the Potomac and all communications between this and Washington is cut off and 25 carloads of killed and wounded passed through Baltimore. So you see some folks have to mourn the loss of fathers and brothers.

If we win the day on the Potomac it will ruin the rebellion, but in turn if we get whipped it will prolong the war.

I saw a piece in the Baltimore Clipper³³ that we were to be broken up. If so the D'Epineuil Zouaves career will be short and inglorious, but I am agoing to see one brush with the rebels for I have not served six months for nothing.

You need not send me any New York papers. We have got to fall in for dress parade. I forgot to tell you that Capt. Chester³⁴ has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and he cannot drill a company, he made a mistake in presenting arms to the colors, and he is not any more fit for his office than a child 10 years old. It is his father's money that got him his position. The men in this regt are to be offered a chance to go in the army or navy, just which they please. So good bye.

Edwin Tibbits

³² The 53rd Regiment was disbanded in Washington on March 21, 1862.

³³ *The American Republican and Baltimore Daily Clipper* was a newspaper published in Baltimore, Md. in the mid-1800s.

³⁴ George F. Chester, age 33, became captain of Co. D. Oct. 2, 1861 and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel March 1, 1862 after the death of Lt. Col., Joseph Vignier de Monteil during the Battle of Roanoke Island.